

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08722 271750Z

54

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 /098 W

----- 018981

R 271512Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6976

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS BOGOTA 8722

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, ECRE, CO, PN, EWWTT

NOXUBJ: ATRATO CANAL

COLOMBIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED STORIES THIS WEEK THAT AN INTER-OCEANIC CANAL WOULD SOON BE BUILT BY THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE GOC HAS UNDERTAKEN PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR A SMALL CANAL AND HAS GIVEN THE PROJECT A HIGH PRIORITY IT IS THE EARLIEST STAGE. THE CANAL WILL BE ONLY 30 KILOMETERS TO JOIN THE ATRATO AND SAN JUAN RIVERS NEAR THEIR HEADS. THE RESULT WILL BE A 600

KILOMETER RIVER CANAL LINK BETWEEN THE TWO COASTS REACHING A HEIGHT OF 32 METERS AND THROUGH WHICH SMALL SHIPS UP TO NO MORE THAN 200 TONS CAN PASS. THE CANAL'S SIGNIFICANCE WILL PROBABLY BE LARGELY INTERNAL ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC STUDIES HAVE NOT BEEN BEGUN. THE CANAL HAS BEEN GIVEN A PRIORITY BECAUSE IT WILL OPEN UP THE CHOCO DEPARTMENT. IT WILL PROBABLY ALSO BECOME A TOURISM RESOURCE AND COULD OFFER SOME RELIEF TO SMALL BOAT TRAFFIC IN THE PANAMA CANAL.

SANCHEZ

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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